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SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Rumania

SUBJECT Postal and Telephone Communications

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25X1X

1. "The Ministry of Communications shares certain powers with the Ministry for Foreign Commerce. Both of these ministries also hold certain powers exclusively.
  - a. the Ministry for Communications:
    - supervises all post offices in the RFR
    - collects and delivers the mail throughout RFR's cities and towns
    - supervises mail carried by rail, plane and other means of transportation
    - inspects and operates all post offices in the RFR
    - maintains such services as registered mails, parcel post, money orders, etc.
    - supervises all telephone communications in the nation
  - b. the Ministry for Foreign Commerce:
    - issues authorizations through the Directia Generala a Vamilor (General Directorate of Customs), for the forwarding of parcels abroad. (The General Directorate of Customs is located on the 2nd floor of this Ministry).
  - c. between them, with joint usage of power, it is ensured that no goods, as prohibited by law, are sent abroad.
2. "Locations of various post offices in Bucharest:
  - Post Office of Grivita Rosie City Sector, opposite the People's Board of that sector, on Banu Manta Street
  - Post Office of 1 May City Sector, at the corner of Soseaua Stefan Gnl Mare and Calea Floresca; it occupies a new 5 or 6 floor building, completed in Sept 53.
  - post office, a sub-office of the 1 May Post Office, located on Viitor Street at the corner of Romana Street, between the former Cantemir Lyceum and Romana Street

Note: the above three post offices are the sole ones which accept and distribute foreign mail. This is also published in local newspapers.

25X1

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SEE LAST PAGE FOR SUBJECT &amp; AREA CODES

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25X1

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1A

- 2 -

- Post Office for the N. Balcescu City Sector, on Splaiul Unirei #116, between Tabacari and Lanariel Streets
- branch office of the T. Vladimirescu City Sector Post-Office; branch located on Uranus Street at the corner of Sirenelor Street
- Post Office of the T. Vladimirescu City Sector, at the corner of Colonel Onere Street and Calea Vacaresti
- branch office of the 1 May Postal Sector, located on Soseaua Mihai Bravu at the corner of Calea Mosilor
- Post Office on 1 May Boulevard (formerly Filantropiei Boulevard), at the corner of Basarab Boulevard.

a. Postal Booths in the Central Bucharest Post Office:

1. Filatelica
  2. Wires for abroad
  3. Parcels from abroad (notification office)
  - \* 4. Letters from abroad (notification and withdrawing office)
  5. Postage stamps (sale)
  6. "Francare" (machine for sale of postage stamps)
  7. Money order forms (sale)
  8. Registered letters for RFR
  9. Express-registered letters for RFR
  10. Registered letters for abroad (only for authorities)
  11. Express-registered letters for abroad (only for authorities)
  12. Air Mail letters, regular and registered, for abroad (only for authorities)
  13. Money orders (forwarding and cashing)
  14. Cable Money orders (forwarding and cashing)
- \*Note: this is an additional office for notification and collection of mail coming from abroad. I do not know who uses it. Very seldom are citizens called to this booth to collect mail from abroad. There are also, in this post office, several telephone booths, for local calls only.

Within the same building, but on Postei Street, (the building is on four streets), is the office for collecting or forwarding of parcels from or to abroad. (The booth referenced in 3 above, is only the notification of parcels booth), [see Enclosure B]. In the same building, on Stravopoles Street, is the Security Branch of the Post Office; (this is probably a sub-branch of the MSS). What is on the upper floor is unknown to me.

- b. Postal Booths in other Post Offices: City-Sector post offices have the same booths as indicated above (that is, 2,4,5,6,7,8,9,13,14.). All correspondence to and from abroad is handled by booth 4, except for parcels which are handled only by the main office behind the Main Post Office. The City-Sector post offices have, in addition, an 'Oficiul de Radioficare' (Radio Office), for the issuance of wireless licenses.

3. "Rates of Postal Communications:

a. Domestic mail

	LEI
Post-card, for anywhere in the RFR; price includes card	.50
Picture post-card; price does not include post-card	.65
Letter, within the city of Bucharest ('Loco')	.85
Normal letter	1.25
Registered letter	1.50
Registered-Express letter	1.65
Air Mail letter (i.e., Timisoara, Arada, Sibiu, etc.)	?

b. Letters for Abroad: (prices depend on country to where letters are sent).

Post-card	depends
Picture post-card	depends
Registered post-card	depends
Normal letter	depends
(for Italy 1.80 Lei)	
Air Mail letter	depends
(for Italy 2.50 Lei)	
Registered letter	depends
(for Italy 3.75 Lei)	
Registered Air Mail letter	depends
(for Italy 4.75 Lei)	
Registered-Express letter	depends
(for Brazil 7.25 Lei)	
(for USA 6.75 Lei)	

25X1

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

- 3 -

25X1A

## c. Wires

1. within the RPR: Lei 0.10 for the form. Prices depend on locality to where sent, number of words, and type of wire (urgent or regular). Prices for normal wires are from 0.65-1.80 Lei per word. Urgent wires are 25% more expensive. Between 2100 and 0600 hours, urgent wires were priced the same as normal ones.
2. for abroad: Lei 0.10 for the form [see Enclosure D]; prices depend on locality to where sent, and type (urgent or regular - normal).
 

South America.....	Lei 11.00 per word
USA .....	Lei 9.25 per word
France.....	Lei 6.25 per word
Israel .....	Lei 4.75 per word
Italy .....	Lei 3.75 per word

## d. Money orders

1. within the RPR form was priced at 1.00 Lei; further price depends on address, and value of money order (amount of money)
2. to and from abroad: prohibited

## e. Parcels

1. within the RPR: food and clothing items, etc., permitted up to the weight of 25 kg. Prices depend on weight. No special permit is required; mailing takes place at the Main Post Office on Postei Street, where the forwarding and collection of parcels to and from foreign countries also takes place.
2. for abroad: food and clothing items only, up to the weight of 5 kg.; may be sent only to the USSR and Satellites. (These go mostly to students studying in the USSR or Satellites). Special authorization from the Ministry of Foreign Commerce is required; and an inventory in three copies is necessary. Fee was paid at the special office on Postei Street. Prices unknown to me.
3. from abroad: all parcels from free countries (including medians), are prohibited. Parcels from the USSR and Satellites are permitted. These are picked up at the same office, behind the Main Post Office.
4. "Office hours of Post Offices: the Central Post Office, City-Sector Post Office, and the three Post Offices (indicated on page 1) for the forwarding and distribution of mail from abroad, are open every day, including Sundays and Holidays, from 0600 to 2200 hours. After 2200 hours, only the Central Post Office is open, for wire service. All other post offices are open every day, including Sundays and Holidays, from 0800 to 1200, and from 1400 to 1800 hours.
5. "Distribution: distribution takes place once a day, usually in the morning. Postmen wear blue uniforms (if they have one), and a blue cap with the post office insignia. There are some (female) postwomen. Mail is carried in leather sacks. Regular mail may be left with a neighbor. Registered letters, wires, etc., may be delivered only to the addressee who must sign a receipt. Urgent wires are delivered at night, if necessary.
6. "Delays in distribution: delay in distribution of mail has existed in all past regimes, and there had been no improvement so far. A letter from Ploesti to Bucharest (60 km.) takes two days; from Roman (Moldavia) to Bucharest, five days; A letter from Italy reaches an addressee in Bucharest in nine days. A letter from South America to Bucharest takes 17-18 days. Complaints about delays do not exist.
7. "Sale of postage stamps: postage stamps may be procured either at post-office booths (Timbre & Aftancare), where a person buys stamps and affixes them to the letter, through the special machine (which saves the State a lot of money), or at the state tobacco stores (IAT - Industria Alimentara Tutun). At the state tobacco stores only stamps may be purchased, as the special machines do not exist.
8. "Procedure and formalities for forwarding and delivery of mail: by law, no postcard or letter may be sent, regardless of location of addressee, without bearing

25X1

25X1

CONFIDENTIAL

25X1A

- 4 -

the name and surname of sender and his address (City-sector included). Letters and post cards without this information are destroyed. Normal mail is posted in any ordinary post boxes, in front of the post offices, and also throughout the city. Normal, unregistered, air mail, within the RPR, is posted in air mail post boxes in front of, or inside, any post office. Registered mail, including registered-express, and air mail, is taken to the post office booth, and forwarding is made as it is in a free country. Sender receives a receipt [see Enclosure C]. Letters to and from abroad require special formalities, by law. No one may post a letter abroad without taking it to the special booth in the post office. This is true for any kind of mail to and from abroad. The sender himself must take the mail to this booth (not even his husband or wife may do it for him), after affixing the necessary stamps. The employee at the booth books, in a special registry, name and surname, addresses of both sender and addressee, and date of mailing. The letter remains in the hands of the employee. It may not be posted by the sender. The forwarding is done by the post office thereafter. The sender receives a receipt for the letter [see Enclosure C]. Mail coming from abroad is not delivered by the postmen, regardless of the type of mail it is. The postman merely delivers to the addressee a postal notice [see Enclosure B], which asks the addressee to come to the Post Office to pick up the mail. Taking the postal notice, the addressee may pick up the mail at the post office indicated (one of the three which handle foreign mail), where name and surname and address of both sender and addressee are recorded in the special registry. The date is also registered. In both cases, receiving or sending foreign mail, the sender or addressee must identify himself with his Biroul Populatiei (identification card). Foreigners identify themselves with the new Id card issued for foreigners. In either case, personal data is checked by the employee, against data given on the Id card. All other mail from or for abroad, other than that mentioned above, is destroyed. Parcels sent to the USSR and Satellites require authorization from the Ministry for Foreign Commerce, and three copies of inventory of goods to be mailed. When approval has been received for the sending of a parcel, the parcel and two copies of the inventory are taken to the Post Office, and the parcel is mailed. The contents of the parcel are not checked, because it is going to the USSR or a Satellite. The sender is given a receipt [see Enclosure C]. Books, magazines and papers may be forwarded, within the RPR; outside the RPR this is strictly forbidden. Money orders may be received from abroad (including the USSR and Satellites), only through the RPR State Bank; the official rate of exchange is applied. Pictures of relatives may be sent abroad, thus can be included in letters.

9. "Censorship: Officially [redacted] in a free country, like the Rumanian people's Republic", there is no censorship. The fact that incoming and outgoing foreign mail is booked in a special registry needs no further explanation. I do not know where the censorship office is located, but it is believed that this is a MSS function. Normally people avoid sending any messages which could be considered questionable; they also avoid sending foreign mail, except to members of their family. Within the RPR, there must be a censorship. Naturally, the MSS censors only those letters which are addressed to people already on the MSS lists, (suspect files).
10. "No Post Restante, or post boxes exist in the RPR, either for authorities, or for private citizens.
11. "Telephone communications: the Main Telephone Exchange Building (Palatul Telefonelor - Telephone Palace) is on Calea Victoriei, and supervises the following Telephone Exchanges:
  - Telephone Exchange Building on Dacia Boulevard, between Olga Bancic Street and Dumbrava Rosie Street.
  - Telephone Exchange Building, in Rahovei Park at Street Cer Terminus Stations, nos. 7 and 15. This is a new five or six-story building, in Rahovei Park, with an annex building for the Ministry of Communications' employees. The building was completed in 1950.
  - Telephone Exchange Building, at the corner of T. Sperantei and Calea Dudesti Streets. It is a new building, five or six stories high, which was not quite completed in late February 1954.
12. "Only people within the Government field of labor are entitled to a phone in their homes. This is assigned, however, only upon special declaration (Adev-erinta) from the personnel office of the enterprise, stating that 'for the good running of the office, a private phone for Comrade(X) is necessary'. This de-

25X1

25X1

25X1

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- 5 -

25X1A

claration, taken to the telephone building, on Victoriei Street, may entitle a person to a telephone, installed at home. Within the city, there are very few numbers available, so it is quite a problem to get a phone installed even with the enterprise declaration.

13. "Private citizens are not entitled to a phone line. This is not to say that there are no private citizens with a phone; but the ones with home phones have had them for many years. Slowly these are being given to people within the field of labor. During 1953, many private businessmen who had phones, had their phones removed. These phones were, presumably, given to those in the field of labor. Also during 1953, in order to meet the many requests for phones, especially from State institutions, etc., the telephone exchange introduced the numbers 8 and 9 to the automatic exchange, whereas, before, the first numbers had run from 1 to 7.

14. "Monthly telephone rates follow:
- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| a. persons within the field of labor   | LEI<br>25.00 |
| b. private professionals (physicians, attorneys, etc., who are also in the field of labor, but who have a State authorized private activity as well) | 50.00        |
| c. businessmen and, in general, any private citizen having a phone   | 80.00        |

These base monthly rates include three local calls per day. The charge, over this, is the same as that of calls through public phones; i.e., 0.25 Lei (as per special clock registers).

15. "Payment of a telephone bill is made at the Central Telephone Building on Victoriei Street, monthly.
16. "Public telephones were located in the post offices, in private shops, and state restaurants. Conversations (local calls) cost 0.25 Lei. The usual metal tokens were used.
17. "Since 1951 or 1952, (I am not sure which year), no telephone directories have been issued to telephone users. Even the 03 number (telephone information) does not give numbers of other citizens or institutions. People, therefore, resort to the usual trick: they call 03, and say: 'Comrade! This is the People's Board.... I would like to have the phone number of the Ministry of Commerce...'. This usually succeeds. Normally, 03 only gives the numbers for the Militia, Fire-brigades, First Aid Stations, Ambulances, and the Main Railway Station. When the person wishing a number gets the reply, he usually says: 'Long live the struggle for peace!'. (This expression replaces the Capitalistic 'Thank you'). During the Fourth Youth Festival, phone conversations were closed with: 'Long live the Fourth Youth Festival!'

09 is the number for inter-city telephone conversations  
03 is the number of information  
02 is the number for complaints.

18. "Telephone calls to any place in the RPR, including border zone areas, but outside of Bucharest, would be made through private phones, from telephone booths in the telephone building, or telephone booths in the post offices, (Main one, and City-Sector Post Offices). There is a telephone Office on 30 December Street, for inter-city and even foreign phone calls, (the office is on 30 December Street at the corner of Calea Victoriei, in line with the Main Post Office). Telephone calls to a usual locality in the RPR do not require the showing of an Id card; it is sufficient to give the name, surname, address and number. (This applies to calls made from a public phone to localities not in the border area). Calls to Giurgiu, Calafat, Turnu-Severin, Constanta, etc., made from a public booth, require the showing of an Id card. Calls made from a home phone, of course, require no special procedure. Naturally conversations, though unofficially, are recorded, and stand a strict censorship.
19. "Conversations to or from abroad are recorded. They can be made from a State telephone booth; this requires the full identification of the person making the call. Foreign calls made from a home phone, require no special procedure.

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25X1

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25X1A

- 6 -

ENCLOSURES: A: Organizational chart of the Ministry of Communications

B: Form of postal notice indicating foreign mail for an EPR citizen is at post office, and must be collected.

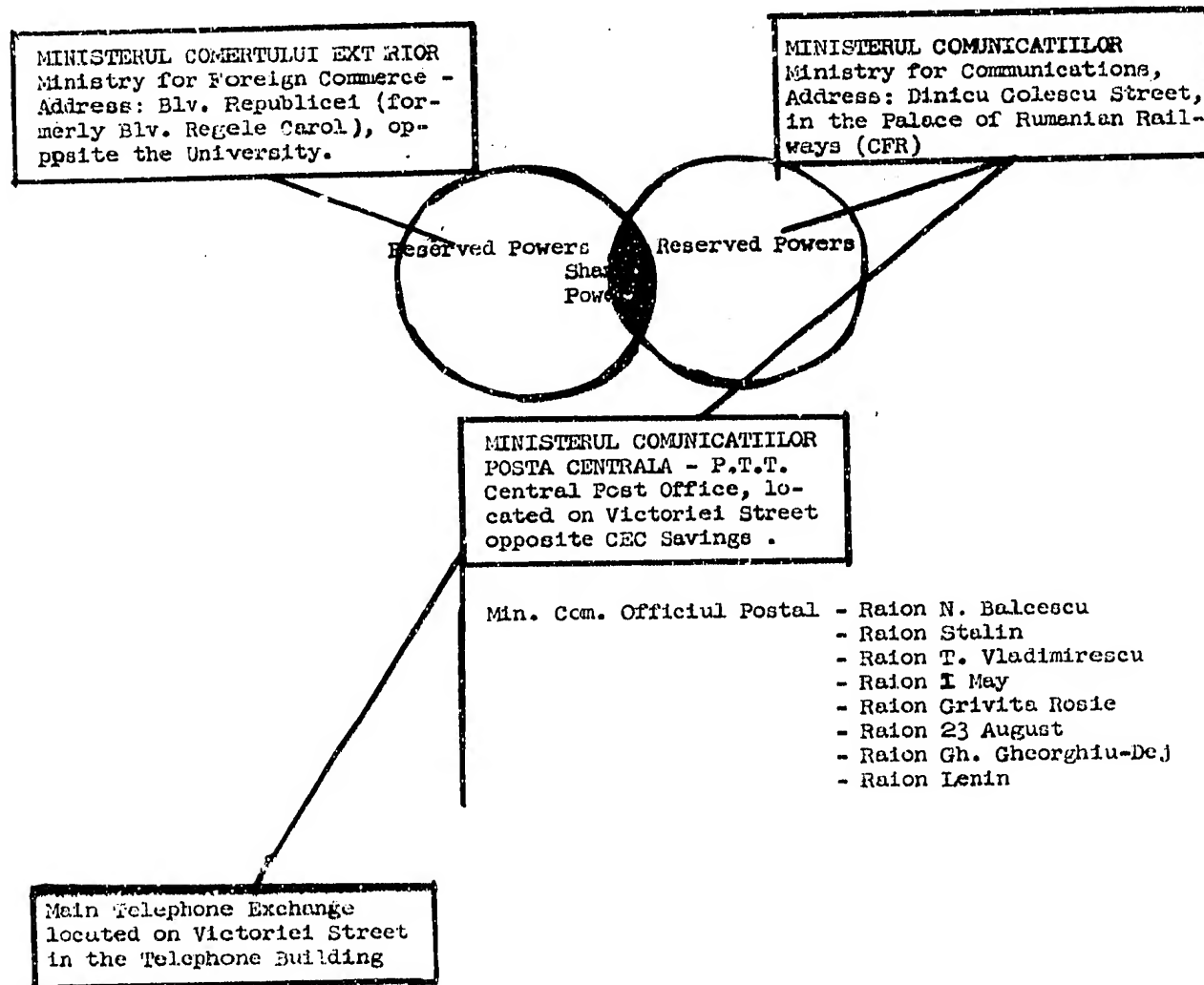
C: Form of receipt given to sender; used for all kinds of Post Office communications, including domestic and foreign mail.

D: Telegraph form.

25X1

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25X1A

ENCLOSURE A: Organizational Chart of the Ministry of Communications

Remarks: The 'Raion' Post Offices listed above, belong to City Sub-Sectors.

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25X1

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25X1A

ENCLOSURE B: Form of postal notice indicating foreign mail for an RFR citizen is at post office, and must be collected.

OFICIUL POSTAL P. T. T.  
Sectorul #..... Str.....  
R. N. Balcescu

## AVIS - POSTAL

Vi se comunica Toi.....  
Strada..... #... ca a-ti primit.....  
.....A se prezenta cu acte de identi-  
tate doveditoare la Oficiu.....orele 8-12 si 14-18.

Seful Oficiului  
(.....)

Remarks: White, headed paper, a special printed form, equal in size to sample above. This Avis-Postal (Postal Notice) is an 'invitation' to report to the post office to collect a parcel, letter, etc., from abroad. Person is requested to report within normal office hours, and to be in possession of Id card. It bears no date, as the round stamp (indicated) of the post office is dated with the date of issue.

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25X1



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25X1A

ENCLOSURE C: Form of receipt given to sender; used for all kinds of post office communications, including domestic and foreign mail.

No. 451789	Expeditor.....
	Destinator.....
	Destinatia .....
Timbru	No.....Cuv. Taxa. Lei.....
Postal	Iscolitura

Remarks: Expeditor - sender; Destinator - addressee; Destinatia - destination. This is followed by the No. of words, fee, in Lei, and signature of Post Office employee.

This receipt is the standard type of receipt used for all kinds of post-office communications, including internal mail, and mail for abroad.

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25X1

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25X1A

ENCLOSURE D: Telegraph Form

Imprimeriile Statului  
 Postul Formularului: Lei 0.10

## TELEGRAMA

Destinatia:	Provenienta	Cuvinte No.	Ora	Observatii:
Text:.....				

Expediter

Nume . . . . . Prenume . . . . . Orasul . . . . . Raion  
 Str. . . . . No. . .

Remarks: Telegraph printed form is equal to the sample, above, in size; it is light-blue-grey in color. Translation of the form follows: 'State Printing Office, Price of form: Lei 0.10. Form Number...(TELEGRAMA)- wire. Destination, originating place, number of words, hours (time), remarks, text'. Last column contains name and surname of sender, address, city or town, city sector and street number.

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25X1

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